



Biden promises 'relentless diplomacy' to skeptical allies

By J. BOAK/A. MADHANI
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — President Joe Biden summoned the world's nations to forcefully address the festering global issues of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and human rights abuses in his first address before the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday. He decried military conflict and insisted the U.S. is not seeking "a new Cold War" with China. But while stressing to fellow world leaders the urgency of working together, Biden avoided addressing criticism from allies about the messy U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and a still-unresolved diplomatic tempest with France, the United States' oldest ally. Instead, Biden sought to use his address before the annual gathering of world leaders to make the case that the United States remains a reliable international partner following four years of President Donald Trump's "America first" foreign policy.

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Associated Press

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Biden promises 'relentless diplomacy' to skeptical allies

Continued from Front

"We're opening a new era of relentless diplomacy, of using the power of our development aid to invest in new ways of lifting people up around the world," Biden said.

The president offered an impassioned plea for cooperation, to friends and adversaries, arguing that overcoming a daunting list of existential crises "will hinge on our ability to recognize our common humanity."

The president said the U.S., under his watch, had reached a turning point with the end of U.S. military operations in Afghanistan last month, closing out America's longest war. That set the table, he said, for his administration to shift its attention to intensive diplomacy at a moment with no shortage of crises facing the globe.

"Today, many of our greatest concerns cannot be solved or even addressed by the force of arms," he said. "Bombs and bullets

cannot defend against COVID-19 or its future variants."

Biden offered a robust endorsement of the U.N.'s relevance and ambition at a difficult time in history, and sought to reassure wary allies of U.S. cooperation after a series of disagreements in recent months.

He pledged to double U.S. financial aid to poorer countries to help them switch to cleaner energy and cope with the "merciless" effects of climate change. That would mean increasing assistance to about \$11.4 billion a year. This after five months ago doubling the amount to \$5.7 billion a year.

As part of the fight against climate change, rich nations for many years have promised to spend \$100 billion a year in climate help, but a new study shows that they're \$20 billion a year short. Biden said his new commitment would help rich nations reach their goal.

The \$100 billion goal is key because in climate nego-

tiations there's a dramatic rich-poor nation gap. Developing nations and others are reluctant to curb emissions further of heat-trapping gases without help from developed nations, which in the words of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, are "the guys that created the problem."

Biden seemed to look past the mounting skepticism he's faced from world leaders in the early going of his presidency, including criticism that Biden has given too little weight to allies' concerns on issues that have ramifications for America's friends on the world stage.

Eight months into his presidency, Biden has been out of sync with allies on the chaotic ending to the U.S. war in Afghanistan. He has faced differences over how to go about sharing coronavirus vaccines with the developing world and over pandemic travel restrictions. And there are questions about the best way to respond to military and economic moves by

China.

His recent blow-up with France was born out of a three-way agreement between the U.S., Britain and Australia that undercut a more than \$60 billion French submarine deal in favor of a plan to equip Australia with nuclear-powered submarines.

The move is expected to give Australia improved capabilities to patrol the Pacific amid growing concern about the Chinese military's increasingly aggressive tactics.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said Monday there was a "crisis of trust" with the U.S. as a result of the episode.

Biden wasn't so concerned. Asked by a reporter as he arrived at the U.N. on Tuesday how he planned to repair relations with the French, Biden responded with two words: "They're great."

In an interview before meeting with Biden on Monday, U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres told The Associated Press that he

was concerned about the "completely dysfunctional" U.S.-China relationship and the possibility it could lead to a new Cold War.

The secretary-general did not back off his concerns about the U.S.-China tensions as he addressed leaders at the opening of Tuesday's gathering. "It will be impossible to address dramatic economic and development challenges while the world's two largest economies are at odds with each other," he said.

Biden sought to play down concerns about China tensions escalating into something more, saying: "We are not seeking a new Cold War or a world divided into rigid blocs." Notably, Biden didn't utter the word "China" in his 34-minute address. More broadly, he put a heavy emphasis on the need for world leaders to work together on the COVID-19 pandemic, to meet past obligations to address climate change, to head off emerging technology issues and to firm up trade rules. □



Migrants, many from Haiti, wade across the Rio Grande from Del Rio, Texas, to return to Ciudad Acuna, Mexico, Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2021, to avoid deportation from the U.S. The U.S. is flying Haitians camped in a Texas border town back to their homeland and blocking others from crossing the border from Mexico.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

By **JUAN A. LOZANO, ERIC MARIA VERZA**
GAY, ELLIOT SPAGAT and Associated Press

Options shrink for Haitian migrants straddling Texas border

DEL RIO, Texas (AP) — The options remaining for thousands of Haitian migrants straddling the Mexico-Texas border are narrowing as the United States government was ramping up expulsion flights to Haiti on Tuesday and Mexico began busing some away from the border.

More than 6,000 Haitians and other migrants had been removed from an encampment at Del Rio, Texas, U.S. officials said Monday as they defended a strong response that

included immediately expelling migrants to their impoverished Caribbean country and faced criticism for using horse patrols to stop them from entering the town. That was enough for some Haitian migrants to return to Mexico, while others struggled to decide on which side of the border to take their chances. On Monday, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas conceded it was a "challenging and heartbreaking situation,"

but he issued a stark warning: "If you come to the United States illegally, you will be returned. Your journey will not succeed, and you will be endangering your life and your family's life." Mexico's Foreign Relations Secretary, Marcelo Ebrard, said Tuesday he had spoken with his U.S. counterpart, Antony Blinken, about the Haitians' situation. Ebrard said most of the Haitians already had refugee status in Chile or Brazil and most weren't seeking it in Mexico. □

Gabby Petito story boosted by social media, true-crime craze

By A. GOMEZ/L.WHITEHURST
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — The disappearance and almost-certain death of Gabby Petito and the police hunt for her boyfriend have generated a whirlwind online, with a multitude of armchair detectives and others sharing tips, possible sightings and theories by way of TikTok, Instagram and YouTube. Whether the frenzy of attention and internet sleuthing has helped the investigation is not clear, but it has illuminated the intersection between social media and the public's fascination with true-crime stories.

Months before her disappearance drew more than a half-billion views on TikTok, Petito, 22, and 23-year-old boyfriend Brian Laund-

rie set out from Florida on a cross-country road trip over the summer in a van she decorated boho-chic style. They documented their adventure on video and invited social media users to follow along on the journey, sharing scenes of a seemingly happy couple cartwheeling on a beach, hiking on mountain trails and camping in the Utah desert. But they quarreled along the way, and Laundrie returned home alone in the van in September. Over the weekend, a body believed to be Petito's was discovered at the edge of Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. Investigators have not said how she died but have identified the now-missing Laundrie as a person of interest. Social

media users have been fascinated by the case and have been poring over the wealth of online video and photos for clues. "A lot of it has to do with the cross-country journey they were documenting, going on social media on this grand adventure," said Joseph Scott Morgan, a Jacksonville State University professor of forensics and an authority on high-profile murder cases. And he added: "They are young, they are attractive people."

Another source of fascination: a police bodycam video, released last week, showing the couple after they were pulled over in August in Moab, Utah, where the van was seen speeding and hitting a curb. They had gotten into



This Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021, photo, shows a Suffolk County Police Department missing person poster for Gabby Petito posted in Jackson, Wyo. Petito, 22, vanished while on a cross-country trip in a converted camper van with her boyfriend. Authorities say a body discovered Sunday, Sept. 19 in Wyoming, is believed to be Petito.

(AP Photo/Amber Baesler)

a fight, and Petito was in tears, with Laundrie saying tension had been building

between them because they had been traveling together for months. □

Workers reinstall Wisconsin statues downed in 2020 protest



Workers reinstall a statue of Wisconsin abolitionist Col. Hans Christian Heg outside the state Capitol in Madison, Wis., on Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2021. Protesters tore the 9-foot-6-inch statue down and ripped its head off in June 2020 during a demonstration over George Floyd's death in Minneapolis.

(AP Photo/Todd Richmond)

By TODD RICHMOND
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Wisconsin workers reinstalled two statues Tuesday on the state Capitol grounds that protesters ripped down during a demonstration last year in the wake of George Floyd's death.

Workers reinstalled a 9-foot-6-inch statue of Wisconsin abolitionist Col. Hans Christian Heg as well as a 7-foot statue of a woman symbolizing the state's "Forward" motto. Neither statue has any racist history associated with them, but protesters said they represented

a false narrative that Wisconsin supports Black people and racial equity. Protesters toppled both statues in June 2020, breaking off Heg's leg and head. The Forward statue was dented and one of its fingers broken off. The demonstration was among several that shook downtown Madison in the days after Floyd's death in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020. Floyd, who was Black and handcuffed, died after white police Officer Derek Chauvin pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for several minutes. □

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Biden bets on rapid COVID tests but they can be hard to find



This image provided by Abbot in September 2021 shows packaging for their BinaxNOW self test for COVID-19. President Joe Biden is betting on millions more rapid, at-home tests to help curb the latest deadly wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is overloading hospitals and threatening to shutter classrooms around the country. But the tests have already disappeared from pharmacy shelves in many parts of the U.S., and manufacturers warn it will take them weeks to ramp up production, which was slashed after demand for the tests plummeted over the summer of 2021.

(Abbot via AP)

By **MATTHEW PERRONE**
AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden is betting on millions more rapid, at-home tests to help curb the latest deadly wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is overloading hospitals and threatening to shutter classrooms around the country.

But the tests have already disappeared from pharmacy shelves in many parts of the U.S., and manufacturers warn it will take them weeks to ramp up production, after scaling it back

amid plummeting demand over the summer.

The latest shortage is another painful reminder that the U.S. has yet to successfully manage its COVID-19 testing arsenal, let alone deploy it in the type of systematic way needed to quickly crush outbreaks in schools, workplaces and communities.

Experts say encouraging signs last spring led to false confidence about the shrinking role for tests: falling case numbers, rising vaccination rates and guidance from health officials that

vaccinated people could largely skip testing. Officials recently reversed that advice as cases and deaths driven by the delta variant surged anew.

"For all of us, there was a combination of optimism and hubris in the June time-frame that led us believe this was over," said Mara Aspinall, a health industry researcher at Arizona State University who has become a leading authority on COVID-19 testing supplies.

Colorado's Mesa County is among the local governments that have stopped offering rapid tests as part of their free testing programs for the general public. "We were seeing shortages in the tests across the county, so we are really prioritizing supplies for our school districts to have quick turnaround for testing, to help them if needed," said Stefany Busch, a county spokeswoman. She noted that tests that are processed in laboratories — which take longer to give results — remain plentiful. Indeed, parts of the U.S. testing system are far-

ing better than during prior surges. The large commercial labs that process the majority of tests performed at hospitals and testing sites still report plenty of capacity. LabCorp, one of the biggest laboratory chains, said last week it was delivering results for 150,000 tests daily, with the ability to double that number.

Still, rapid tests have a clear advantage in that they can be done anywhere and have a 20-minute turnaround time, but most school testing programs still rely on tests processed in labs, which return results in a day or two.

In general, the U.S. has been far more cautious about embracing rapid, at-home testing technology compared to countries like Britain that have rolled it out widely. The Food and Drug Administration has authorized only about a half-dozen such tests, compared with more than 400 laboratory tests. Many experts, including FDA regulators, still consider laboratory technology the "gold standard" for accuracy be-

cause it can detect even minute levels of virus in the nose. But in his speech this month announcing sweeping new vaccine mandates, Biden highlighted rapid tests, saying the government would purchase 280 million of them, as he also called on all schools to set up regular testing programs. Biden said the federal government will use the Defense Production Act to ensure manufacturers have the raw materials they need to make tests.

If those plans sound familiar, it's because they were part of Biden's original strategy for dealing with COVID-19 released in January. A spokeswoman for the Department of Health and Human Services said the latest actions "build on earlier initiatives" as the delta variant-driven surge boosts testing demand.

HHS has announced few details of the \$2 billion-plan to purchase rapid tests. For now, retail chains like CVS and Walgreens have placed limits on how many at-home tests customers can buy. □

Woman charged after daughter, 3, found dead in garbage bag

TAWAS CITY, Mich. (AP) — A Michigan woman has been charged with murder days after her 3-year-old daughter's body was found with stab wounds inside a garbage bag, authorities said.

Justine Johnson, 22, was arraigned Monday in 81st District Court in Tawas City on one count each of felony murder and first-degree child abuse. She pleaded not guilty to both charges and is scheduled for a Sept. 28 probable cause conference.

Police were called last Friday to a residence in Iosco County in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula after a garbage bag with a human foot protruding from it was found at the home. Police said the bag contained the body of Johnson's daughter, Sutton Mosser.

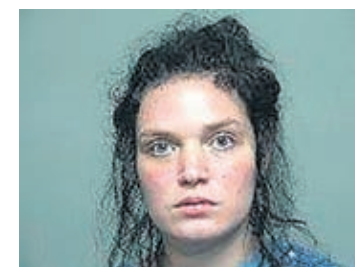
Iosco County Prosecutor

James Bacarella said the girl had suffered multiple stab wounds.

The girl's grandmother, Alisa Johnson, said she believes her daughter is innocent and would never have hurt her young child.

"Justine loved Sutton with all her heart. She'd never let anybody hurt that baby," she told WNEM-TV.

A message seeking comment on the charges was left Tuesday for Johnson's court-appointed attorney. According to a probable cause affidavit, one of Johnson's brothers found the garbage bag with the child's body inside. The affidavit states that the day before he had asked Johnson where her child was and she told him to mind his business, WJRT-TV reported. Officers found Johnson hours after the discovery of her daughter's body walk-



This undated photo provided by the Iosco County Sheriff's Office in Tawas City, Mich. shows Justine Johnson. Authorities have charged Johnson with murder days after her 3-year-old daughter's body was found with multiple stab wounds inside a garbage bag. Justine Johnson was arraigned Monday, Sept. 20, 2021, in 81st District Court in Tawas City, on one count each of felony murder and first-degree child abuse.

(Iosco County Sheriff's Office via AP)

ing along railroad tracks. She told officers she did not want to talk about her child's death, the affidavit states. □

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Kosovo-Serbia border blocked by protesters amid tensions

By ZENEL ZHINIPOTOKU and
LLAZAR SEMINI

Associated Press

PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP) —

The Kosovo-Serbia border was blocked again Tuesday by ethnic Kosovo Serbs protesting a decision by Kosovo authorities to start removing Serbian license plates from cars entering the country. The traffic chaos raised fears that it may unleash much deeper tensions between the two Balkan neighbors.

Serbia doesn't recognize its former province of Kosovo as a separate nation and considers their mutual border only as an "administrative" and temporary boundary.

Trucks have blocked the road to the Jarinje and Brnjak border crossing where small groups of Serbs spent the night in tents.

An Associated Press photographer wasn't let onto the road by car but other people crossed the border on foot.

Tensions soared Monday when Kosovo special police with armored vehicles were sent to the border to impose a rule on temporarily replacing Serb license plates from cars while they drive in Kosovo.



Kosovo police officers walk to replace their colleagues near the northern Kosovo border crossing of Jarinje on Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2021. Tensions soared Monday when Kosovo special police with armored vehicles were sent to the border to impose a rule on temporarily replacing Serb license plates from cars while they drive in Kosovo.

(AP Photo/Visar Kryeziu)

It's a minor annoyance for drivers with a big symbolic impact.

Kosovo authorities say they are only copying a program by Serbian police, who have for years been taking off registration plates from Kosovo-registered cars entering Serbia. Drivers then need to pay 5 euros for a temporary 2-month license plate.

Kosovo authorities said a 2016 deal with Serbia reached in European Union-mediated talks had expired and only proper Kosovo symbols are now valid. Interior Minister Xhelal Svecla said that "Serb citizens should not fear anything" adding that "the measures are not against them or anyone else."

Hundreds of Kosovo Serbs

drove to the border in their cars and trucks, blocking roads leading to the crossing points. Kosovo police on Monday fired tear gas at the protesters, but they continued to remain there and keep the road blocked.

Igor Simic, a Kosovo Serb official, said this is "a democratic protest of the citizens of this area, Serbs from the

northern part of Kosovo."

"They are just trying to save their human rights of free movement, some basic thing ... for the European Union and its European values," he said.

Kosovar Prime Minister Albin Kurti held a meeting with the Western ambassadors from United States, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and the European Union telling them that "yesterday's decision was not a provocation or discrimination against anyone."

"On this reciprocity of the temporary number plates for the cars, either both Kosovo and Serbia are right or they are wrong. The Kosovar prime minister added he talked with EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell on Monday on the issue.

Thousands of people were killed and more than 1 million were left homeless after a 1998-1999 bloody crackdown by Serbian troops against Kosovo Albanian separatists. The war ended only after NATO intervened. Kosovo then declared independence in 2008. It has been recognized by the U.S. and other Western nations, but not by Serbia and its allies Russia and China. □

Toxic gas, new rivers of molten lava endanger Spanish island

By ARITZ PARRA and RENA-
TA BRITO Associated Press

EL PASO, Canary Islands

(AP) — As a new volcanic

vent blew open and unstoppable rivers of molten rock flowed toward the

sea, authorities on a Spanish island warned Tuesday that more dangers lie ahead for residents, including earthquakes, lava flows, toxic gases, volcanic ash and acid rain.



Hot lava reaches a swimming pool after an eruption of a volcano on the island of La Palma in the Canaries, Spain, Monday, Sept. 20, 2021. Giant rivers of lava are tumbling slowly but relentlessly toward the sea after a volcano erupted on a Spanish island off northwest Africa. The lava is destroying everything in its path but prompt evacuations helped avoid casualties after Sunday's eruption.

(Europa Press via AP)

Several small earthquakes shook the island of La Palma in the Atlantic Ocean off northwest Africa on Tuesday, keeping nerves on edge after a volcanic eruption on Sunday. The island, with a population of 85,000, is part of the Canary Islands archipelago, a key tourist destination for Europeans. Authorities said the new fissure demonstrated that the area was unstable and unsafe, and kept people at least 2 kilometers (1.25 miles) away.

The rivers of lava, up to six meters (nearly 20 feet) high, rolled down hillsides, burning and crushing everything in their path, as they gradually closed in on the island's more densely populated coast. One was bearing down on Todoque, where more than 1,000

people live, and where emergency services were preparing evacuations.

So far, the eruption has destroyed around 190 houses and forced the evacuation of 6,000 people.

"The truth is that it's a tragedy to see people losing their properties," said municipal worker Fernando Díaz in the town of El Paso. The lava's advance has slowed to about 120 meters (400 feet) an hour, according to the head of the Canary Island Volcanic Emergency Plan, Miguel Ángel Morcuende, and wasn't expected to reach the Atlantic Ocean before Wednesday.

Canary Islands government chief Ángel Víctor Torres said "when (the lava) reaches the sea, it will be a critical moment." The

meeting of the lava, whose temperature exceeds 1,000 degrees Celsius (more than 1,800 F), with a body of water could cause explosions and produce clouds of toxic gas. Torres asked locals to remember the island's last eruption in 1971, when one person died after inhaling the gas emitted as lava met the water.

A change in the wind direction blew the ashes from the volcano across a vast area on the western side of the island, with the black particles blanketing everything. Volcanic ash is an irritant for the eyes and lungs. The volcano has also been spewing out between 8,000 and 10,500 tons of sulfur dioxide which also affects the lungs every day, the Volcanology Institute said. □

After Afghans fell from plane, families live with horror

By KATHY GANNON

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) —

It's a scene that has come to symbolize the chaotic end to America's 20 years of war in Afghanistan: A lumbering U.S. Air Force cargo plane takes off from Kabul airport, chased by hundreds of desperate Afghan men scrambling to get on the aircraft.

As the C-17 transporter gains altitude, shaky mobile phone video captures two tiny dots dropping from the plane. Footage from another angle shows many in the crowd on the tarmac stopping in their tracks and pointing.

The full extent of the horror becomes apparent only later. The dots, it turns out, were desperate Afghans hidden in the wheel well.

As the wheels folded into the body of the plane, the stowaways faced the choice of being crushed to death or letting go and plunging to the ground.

More than a month later, much remains unclear about what happened in that tragic takeoff on Aug. 16, a day after the Taliban swept into Kabul, prompting a flood of Afghans trying to escape the country.



A portrait of Fida Mohammad, a 24-year-old dentist, who died after falling from a departing U.S. Air Force C-17 on Aug. 16, hangs in his family house in Kabul, Afghanistan, Friday, Sept. 17, 2021. (AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

Even how many were killed remains unknown. Videos show two dots falling from the airborne plane, several seconds apart. But two bodies landed on the same rooftop at the same time, suggesting they fell together, so the other figure seen falling in the videos could be at least one other person. Also, the U.S. military has said it found human remains still in the wheel well

of the C-17 when it landed in Qatar but did not specify how many people. At least one person, a young soccer player, died on the tarmac, crushed under the C-17's wheels.

The U.S. military says it has not completed its investigation into the day. It said the C-17 was bringing in supplies for the evacuation effort at the airport but was mobbed by Afghans

on the tarmac as it landed. Fearing the plane would be overwhelmed, the crew decided to take off again without unloading the cargo. Videos taken by Afghans on the tarmac show hundreds running alongside it, and perhaps a dozen people sitting on top of the wheel well, though it is not known how many jumped off before the plane lifted off.

One of those tucked into the wheel well was Fida Mohammad, a 24-year-old dentist.

He had once been full of hope, his family said. He had married last year in an extravagant ceremony that cost his family \$13,000. His dream of opening a dental clinic in Kabul had become a reality.

The older man still struggles to understand what his son was thinking when he climbed into the wheel well. He's wracked with guilt, fearing that Fida took such an enormous risk because he wanted to help repay the large loan his father took out for the wedding. Burying his head in his hands, Painda says he spends hours imagining his son's final minutes, the fear he must have felt as the earth below him began to disappear and the wheels swung in, knowing he had no choice but to let go.

On the ground, Abdullah Waiz was asleep in his home at the time and was awakened by a powerful noise. His first thought was an explosion. He rushed outside. His neighbors gestured toward his roof and told him of the bodies tumbling from the sky. □

Dutch king's speech outlines limited government plans

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — The Dutch king outlined a pared-back government plan for the coming year on Tuesday in his traditional speech opening the new parliamentary term that came amid drawn-out negotiations to form a new ruling coalition. With the government of Prime Minister Mark Rutte in caretaker mode since a March general election and no simple path to a new administration, no major plans were unveiled in the king's speech that is written by the government. "Major new long-term choices are for the next Cabinet," King Willem-Alexander told a joint sitting of both houses of parliament.

Even so, he said the government would invest an extra 7 billion euros (\$8.2 billion) for measures to help

achieve its planned reduction in emissions including making homes and industry more sustainable and pro-

moting use of electric cars. He also pledged more funds to tackle housing shortages, for education and to bolster rule of law, warning that organized crime gangs are becoming increasingly violent. He called the murder in July of crime reporter Peter R. de Vries "a new nadir."

For the second straight year, the king's "speech from the throne" was held in a Hague church instead of the historic Knight's Hall due to coronavirus restrictions and there was no horse-drawn carriage ride for members of the royal family through packed streets. As the king and Queen Maxima left the church, a small group of people booed.

Finance Minister Wopke

Hoekstra presents the budget to parliament later Tuesday. It forecasts the Dutch economy will grow 3.9% this year bringing it back to pre-pandemic levels by year's end and by 3.5% in 2022, although both numbers could change depending on how the pandemic develops.

Unemployment is expected to stay around 3.4-3.5% with more job vacancies than unemployed people seeking work. On foreign policy, the king said that membership of the European Union, NATO and the United Nations remain "cornerstones of Dutch foreign policy," but he added that the country has choices to make about its relations with China, Russia and the United States. □



Queen Maxima and members of parliament stand for a triple salute to Dutch King Willem-Alexander after he marked the opening of the parliamentary year with a speech outlining the government's budget plans for the year ahead at the Grote Kerk, or Sint-Jacobus Kerk, (Great Church or St. James' Church) in The Hague, Netherlands, Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2021.

(AP Photo/Peter Dejong)



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Haitian journey to Texas border starts in South America

By JULIE WATSON, JUAN A. LOZANO and ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press
TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) —

Robins Exile downed a traditional meal of plantains and chicken at a restaurant run by Haitian immigrants, just a short walk from the walled border with the United States. He arrived the night before and went there seeking advice: Should he try to get to the U.S., or was it better to settle in Mexico?

Messages on WhatsApp and Facebook and YouTube videos from Haitian migrants warned him to avoid crossing in Del Rio, Texas, where thousands of Haitians have converged recently. It was no longer the easy place to cross that it was just a few weeks ago. Discussion Monday at the Tijuana restaurant offered a snapshot of Haitians' diaspora in the Western Hemisphere that picked up steam in 2016 and has shown little sign of easing, demonstrated most recently by the more than 14,000 mostly Haitian migrants assembled around a bridge in Del Rio, a town of only 35,000 people.

Of the roughly 1.8 million Haitians living outside their homeland, the United States is home to the largest Haitian immigrant population in the world, numbering 705,000 people from the Western Hemisphere's poorest country. Significant numbers also live in Latin American countries like Chile, which is home to an estimated 69,000 Haitians, according to the Migration Policy Institute.

Nearly all Haitians reach the U.S. border on a well-worn route: Fly to Brazil, Chile or elsewhere in South America. If jobs dry up, slowly move through Central America and Mexico



by bus and on foot to wait perhaps years in northern border cities like Tijuana for the right time to enter the United States and claim asylum. It is a population that relies little on smugglers and instead moves based on shared experience and information exchanged between the tight-knit community, often via WhatsApp or Facebook, about where it is safest, where jobs are most plentiful and where it is easiest to enter a country. Earlier this year, large numbers showed up in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, to cross into El Paso, Texas.

Haitians shifted over the summer to Ciudad Acuña, Mexico, across from Del Rio. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said Monday that it was unusually sudden.

Many Haitians began attempting to enter the U.S. in the 1980s by sea. Most of them were cut off by the Coast Guard and perhaps given a cursory screening for asylum eligibility, said David Fitgerald, a sociology professor at the University of California, San Diego

and an asylum expert. In 1994, Haitians were intercepted and screened by U.S. authorities on a rented Ukrainian ship and a U.S. Navy hospital ship parked in Kingston, Jamaica. Attempts by sea waned after a Supreme Court decision allowing forced repatriations without refugee protections.

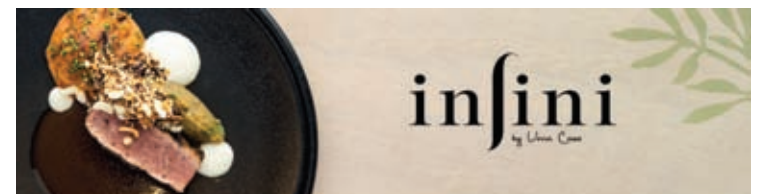
Tens of thousands of Haitians fled after a devastating earthquake in 2010 to settle in South America. After jobs dried up from the Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, many came to Tijuana. President Barack Obama initially allowed them in the U.S. on humanitarian grounds but abruptly began flying them back to Haiti, leaving many stranded on the Mexican border.

Since then, Haitian restaurants and other businesses have sprouted in Tijuana. Haitians have found work at border factories built for U.S. exports and at car washes. One hardscrabble neighborhood is now known as "Little Haiti" because so many settled there. Many Haitians have

established at least temporary legal status in Mexico, Brazil and elsewhere. Some

have spouses or children from their adopted countries. Exile, who joked that he seemed born to be a refugee given his name, said he was interested in getting documents to be able to work in Mexico if his plan to reach the United States fails. He and his pregnant wife had been on the road for 2 1/2 months after he lost his job in Brazil. They had flown there from Haiti a year and half ago amid spiraling crime.

They stayed along Mexico's southern border with Guatemala for three weeks, and had planned to go to the Texas border. But by the time his family sent money, he heard Tijuana was the safer option with its well-established Haitian community. □



Taste limitless possibilities at Infini, where Chef Urvin Croes and his team explores without boundaries and steps with both feet outside of the box to create his most sensational dishes yet. This meticulously designed restaurant located inside Blue Residences on scenic Eagle Beach is a chef's table concept with limited seating where diners are able to interact with the staff and other guests alike throughout the evening.

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Holiday Inn Resort Aruba: Because love never ends

PALM BEACH — Holiday Inn Resort Aruba showers you with love to celebrate the most important event of your life: your wedding. Whether it is a small, intimate happening between the two of you, a gathering with your closest friends and family or a larger group, the resort has it covered. There is one woman who will guide you through it all, from the start to the end. She assures you that everything is arranged for up to the tiniest details, just the way you imagined it. Let us introduce to you Shulaika Isenia, Holiday Inn's wedding specialist. "I am here to make it happen!"

Her calm appearance and skilled way ease every nervous bride-to-be or worried future groom. Shulaika works thorough in a subtle and open minded way. "It is very important to listen close to my client's wishes. To observe and know all the details, that is where it all starts with. My task is to translate the client's wishes into reality to full satisfaction." Her job is to make things easy, take away the stress and she is great at that.

From A to Z

The process begins with contacting the Holiday Inn Resort Aruba where you will be connected to Shulaika. The Holiday Inn Resort Aruba is flexible



and details can be adjusted to your personal taste. "Picture yourself and your loved one on the turquoise blue ocean side where it feels as if the beach is all yours. Our resort has this great advantage to be able to offer our wedding guests their 'own corner' where they have the full bar area for themselves, located right on the wide beach." Holiday Inn Aruba Resorts stands out with their personal approach and upscale service and their Food & Beverage is known all over the island for its consistent quality, quite important on the day of your life. "After the night the resort has their wedding suite made up for you and this means awakening in the romance of the Caribbean sun next morning with the ocean and white-sanded beach stretching in front of you while you enjoy your breakfast."

Three romantic wedding packages offer you amazing possibilities where you can be each other's sunshine under Aruba's beautiful blue skies and turquoise waters, witnessing your "I do's" in a very intimate ceremony (package My Sunshine) or make your special day unique with a group of 20 loved ones, to share the event where you promise to love and stay with each other forever and always with your inner circle (package Promises). If you would like to take it up a notch then tie the knot where love transcends all barriers and all limits, let Holiday Inn Aruba Resort be the one to make this act of overflowing love happen in one of a kind way (package Love Unlimited). Important to mention is that Shulaika and

her team are flexible and arrangements can be adjusted to fulfill your exact wishes. All arrangements by the Holiday Inn Aruba Resort include marriage on the stunning beach with the services of a non-denominational minister, including a wedding certificate as a keepsake. Feel queen and king under the arch of squared bamboo or a circular arch with choice of drapery color and crystals, depending on your choice of package. The signing table, bridal bouquet, matching groom's boutonniere are all part of the life happening and a live musician, photographer and/or videographer are options to consider.

Don't worry, be happy

Put your faith in the hands of Shulaika and her team to organize your vow renewal, engagement or wedding, she will gain your trust in an instant. The island of Aruba and the Holiday Inn Aruba Resort will make you feel secure as all Covid-19 protocol is in place here and your safety is our priority. Discover Aruba, live your dream event at the Holiday Inn Aruba Resort. We promise you: the resort and the island will make sure you will remember this a lifetime!

For more information:

Contact Shulaika Isenia at +297 586 3600 or send an email to shulaika.isenia@ihg.com.



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Hungry Piranha | Twist of Flavors | Juan Valdez Café

The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood | Subway

The Kitchen Table enters sixth year of gastronomic success on NEW location: A very fine culinary journey of Caribbean and Peruvian fusion cuisine

EAGLE BEACH — The Kitchen Table is an elegant, classy, intimate, high-quality restaurant with an exceptional dining set-up. Dining here is an experience, a kind of sitting- at your- best- friend's or family's kitchen table where you feel and taste that the food contains love. Are you looking for something different, an ecstatic foody trip, than this is where you need to go.

The 7-8 course gastronomic journey will start with sparkling wine at the patio of The Kitchen Table's new location at Paradise Beach Villas as of 6.45PM. Around 7.00PM guests will be guided for a memorable dinner on the second floor of the other popular restaurant Asi Es Mi Peru. The dining concept reflects extraordinary, elegant and exquisite dishes from the Caribbean, Peruvian fusion and international cuisine created by the owners, Chef David Lizano and his team. To pair the perfect wines three sommeliers were invited to make the selection.

The interior of the restaurant is if you were in an elegant establishment in Lima, the capital city of Peru. You feel elevated in the top of the building where dinner takes place in an intimate setting. The typical, colorful Peruvian fabrics dress the ceiling while the large windows dignify the room. There are only 16 seats available creating an intimacy underlined by the owner's personal attention. "This is an amazing experience," says

Robert J. Giordanella from New York. "The food is truly divine," shares a local guest. An evening at The Kitchen Table will be noted as unforgettable in your book of vacation memories, as it stands out from the regular island dinners.

It is all about consistency

The Peruvian-born Roxanna Salinas and her husband Jan van Nes are the secret formula behind The Kitchen Table's success. The couple takes a personal approach to what they do, this is not about running a business as usual. This is more about making you feel welcomed home, as well as being pampered. They bring top hospitality, experience and authenticity to the table. Within this gourmet dinner concept the two blended the Peruvian culinary art of Roxanna's top kitchen team and Jan's expertise from The Kitchen Table. The result is one big trip of delight, indulge and tickling of your taste buds. The Kitchen Table welcomes you with open arms every Tuesday to Saturday.

Peruvian touch

In the last ten years, Peru has been recognized as one of the world's best culinary destinations, and for seven consecutive years, the South American country has won the award for the Best Culinary destination at the Worlds Travel Awards. Biodiversity combined multiculturalism are the reasons why



Peru is so rich in gastronomy. You can travel through the last 500 years, touch a mix of cultures whenever you taste authentic Peruvian cuisine. The Kitchen Table brings this epicurean delicacies to Aruba paired perfectly with the best wines and they will make you understand why Peru is at the height of today's gastronomy.

The Kitchen Table is open from Tuesday to Saturday. Have a peak on their website www.thekitchentableinaruba.com or call them at +297-280 7117. □



Third climate Action event hosted by Climate Action Aruba

ORANJESTAD — On Friday, September 24TH, 2021, Climate Action Aruba is organizing its 3rd Climate event to support the young climate activists and to express their concerns about Aruba, asking for more concrete Climate Action from government and enterprises, to convince Aruba's leaders to take a more active approach to this crisis.

There is a deep and worldwide concern about the future. Humanity is causing mass extinction of species, biodiversity is waning, nature is disappearing and the global climate system is in a catastrophic crisis. The latest report of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) states that if by the year 2030 we have not taken swift and decisive measures we will no longer be able to stop the irreversible climate breakdown.

In 2016 all countries in the world (195) signed a legally binding treaty, the Paris Agreement, to take the necessary measures to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, and to aim to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, since this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change. They promised to start lowering GHG emissions immediately to ultimately reach a climate-neutral world by 2050.

At the next conference (COP26) in November, all countries have to submit their plans and strategies to reach the goals of the agreement and cut their emissions. It is the most significant climate event since the Paris Agreement six years ago. It will be crucial that real progress is made in order to be able to stop the ongoing climate crisis. 2021 will be a historic year, the year we either lose sight of the Paris targets, or the year we start implementing the plans and drastically lower emissions.

The clock is ticking....

Young people are now growing up with the challenges of the Climate Crisis and will have to deal with it for the rest of their lives. That is why people all over the world are organizing strikes and climate action events.

20 - 27th of September 2021 is the 'Global Week on Climate Action', with people of all ages joining in climate actions around the world, demanding urgent actions from their leaders. No promises and vague long-term plans anymore, but actual and urgent climate action. They are fighting for their future.

They want government and large corporations to:

- Lower greenhouse-gasses by retreating from fossil fuels, towards emission-free energy.
- Lower the carbon emissions with 50% by 2030 and reach net zero emissions by 2050 to stay below 1,5 ° C warming of global temperatures.
- Protect the environment, nature and biodiversity



Aruba as a small island state is under threat too because of Climate Change and a lack of protection of its environment. Multiple plant and animal species are in danger of extinction or have gone extinct already. Warming of the ocean causes more and stronger hurricanes. Ocean-acidification, dying corals and rising sea-levels are a great threat to our people and environment. The future is at stake.

We as individuals have to take up our responsibility by making changes in our own lives, but Aruba as a country has to do its share too.

A lot of NGO's, organizations and individuals share that common goal: to protect the environment, Aruba's nature and its fauna and flora, all in their own different ways. You do too, and with passion! The love for Aruba and the concern we have about Climate Change and the effects it is having on our way of life, our fauna and flora unites us.

Join our efforts in demanding urgent, concrete actions from our government and business-leaders, to step up the effort, improve climate action plans and execute them with urgency.

Individuals, schools, NGO's and businesses will join, each with their own reasons why they feel urgent Climate Action is needed.

How can you, your school or organization participate?

1. Start by signing the on-line petition to our government asking for swift and decisive measures to lower emissions and to protect our environment.

https://www.change.org/p/ita-aerts-hotmail-com-urge-the-government-of-aruba-to-take-action-on-the-climate-crisis?recruiter=343040823&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=psf_combo_share_initial&utm_term=share_petition&recruited_by_id=b9d66fe0-2a40-11e5-a24e-dfcd99b1a67d&utm_content=fht-30649937-en-us%3A2

2. Because Covid19 is still around we have thought of a fun and safe way to participate!

Instead of posting in person in front of parliament you can drive-by and leave a pair of shoes with us. We will set them on the lawn depicting your presence. You can attach a little note or a Climate Action banner to put next to the shoes. If you can't make it on the day itself, on the days

before (Wednesday and Thursday) there will be a drop-off bin at the University of Aruba to deposit your shoes.

3. You can take a picture of your personal Climate Action, the Climate Action of your school or with your colleagues and post it on-line with #ClimateActionAruba3.0 or #FridaysforFuture

4. Or you can join us in front of parliament. Make sure to keep a safe distance and wear a mask when necessary. Carry a banner or sign with your reason(s) to join. State the name and colors of your organization you represent.

Important notice: Please tie your shoes together in pairs. In case you want your shoes back afterwards, put your name on the tag. They can be picked up on-site until 18.30pm or the next day in front of the post-office between 10-12am. The shoes that have not been picked up after that time will be donated to charity.

Follow our actions on Facebook 'Climate Action Aruba' or on Instagram.

This action is registered at #FridaysforFuture and will be mapped on the world map as a Climate action for Aruba. □

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

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Carmaker Stellantis loses former FCA CEO Manley

By COLLEEN BARRY and
TOM KRISHER
Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — PSA Peugeot's takeover of Fiat Chrysler to form the world's fourth-largest carmaker has had its first executive casualty, with former Fiat Chrysler CEO Mike Manley stepping down as his role of head of the Americas.

Stellantis announced Tuesday that Manley, 57, was leaving to become CEO of AutoNation, the largest dealership network in the U.S., starting Nov. 1. Manley will not be replaced. North America Chief Operating Officer Mark Stewart and Antonio Filosa, COO of Lat America, will report directly to Stellantis CEO Carlos Tavares.

Manley was named CEO of Fiat Chrysler in July 2018, coinciding with the illness and sudden death of longtime CEO Sergio Marchionne. When Stellantis was formed, Tavares, who was Peugeot's chief executive, took over as CEO of the combined carmaker.



Mike Manley, head of Jeep Brand, introduces the 2019 Jeep Cherokee during the North American International Auto Show, Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018, in Detroit. PSA Peugeot's takeover of Fiat Chrysler to form the world's fourth-largest carmaker has had its first executive casualty, with former Fiat Chrysler CEO Mike Manley stepping down as his role of head of the Americas. Stellantis announced Tuesday that Manley, 57, was leaving to become CEO of the largest dealership network in the United States, AutoNation Inc., based in Florida.

(AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

Manley was credited with the turnaround of the Jeep subsidiary, which was a mainstay of FCA profits, and also was the longtime head of Fiat Chrysler's Asia operations. Manley is well-respected in the analyst community, lauded for his strong credentials to run a global automaker both in

terms of technological and strategic transitions.

Manley is taking over a dealership group that posted more than \$20 billion in sales and \$382 million in net income last year. He replaces Mike Jackson, an industry icon who has been with AutoNation for 22 years. Jackson retired

in 2018, but was called out of retirement when his replacement left the company.

Auto Nation, based in Florida, is the largest chain of car and truck dealerships in the U.S., with more than 300 locations nationwide. The company says it has sold more than 13 million vehicles.

Guidehouse Research Principal Analyst Sam Abuelsamid said it's likely that Manley began looking for another chief executive job after getting passed over as CEO of Stellantis by Tavares.

At present, there aren't any CEO jobs available at major automakers, so Manley took the job running the largest retailer in the country, he said.

Taking the top job at AutoNation makes sense for Manley, who had to handle dealers and the retail end of the auto business when he ran Fiat Chrysler's Jeep brand for years.

Abuelsamid said the job will be challenging for Manley

because the ground is shifting dramatically under the dealerships as sales shift more to online, automakers want to sell more through orders, and the world is moving away from combustion engines to electric vehicles.

Also, upstart electric vehicle makers are opening their own stores or selling directly to customers, and with fewer moving parts, electric vehicles could mean lower revenues from repairs and maintenance, he said.

"It's not going to be an easy job over the next five to 10 years," Abuelsamid said. "The role of dealers is going to change and shift dramatically as we get more into electrification," he said. Manley will retain ties with Stellantis as a board member of the Stellantis Foundation. The native of Britain said "the time feels right for me to open a new chapter," after 20 years first with Chrysler, then with Fiat Chrysler and finally Stellantis. □

Google to spend \$2.1 billion on Manhattan campus acquisition

Google is planning to buy St. John's Terminal in New York City for \$2.1 billion, making it the anchor of its Hudson Square campus. The announcement Tuesday arrives with the city buffeted by the pandemic and most offices still largely

unpopulated.

While CEO Sundar Pichai said in a blog post late last month that Google is delaying its global return to offices until Jan. 10, the commitment by the company to further invest in New York City real estate was trum-

peted both by Mayor Bill De Blasio, and New York Gov. Kathy Hochul.

"Google's historic investment in New York City marks an enormous step for our recovery," de Blasio said in a prepared statement.

Google's has had a footprint in New York City for more than two decades and it is the company's largest location outside of California.

Its 1.7 million-square-foot Hudson Square campus is on the Hudson River just south of the New York University campus and Greenwich Village.

"As Google moves toward a more flexible hybrid approach to work, coming together in person to collaborate and build community will remain an important part of our future," the company's Chief Financial Officer said. □



In this file photo dated Monday, Dec. 17, 2018, a man using a mobile phone walks past Google offices in New York. Google is planning to buy New York's St. John's Terminal for \$2.1 billion, making it the anchor of its Hudson Square campus. Alphabet and Google Chief Financial Officer Ruth Porat said Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2021, that the company is looking to invest more than \$250 million in its New York campus this year.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, FILE)

Stocks wobble a day after biggest drop since May

By DAMIAN J. TROISE AP Business Writer

Stocks wobbled between small gains and losses in morning trading on Wall Street Tuesday following a sharp pull-back a day earlier.

The S&P 500 rose 0.2% as of 11:14 a.m. Eastern. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 63 points, or 0.2%, to 34,035 and the Nasdaq rose 0.5%.

Health care companies made some of the biggest gains. Johnson & Johnson rose 0.7% after reporting that a booster of its one-shot coronavirus vaccine provides a stronger immune response months after people receive a first dose.

Technology companies also made gains in a reversal from Monday, when the sector slumped. A mix of industrial and financial stocks fell broadly.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury held steady at 1.31%. European markets were higher, and Asian markets mostly rose. Chinese markets remained closed for a holiday. The market sell-off on Monday was prompted in part by worries about heavily indebted Chinese real estate developers and the damage they could do if they default and send ripple effects through markets. That added to a wide range of concerns hovering over investors, including the highly contagious delta variant as well as higher prices squeezing business and consumers.

Wall Street is also gauging how the recovery's slowdown will impact the Federal Reserve's policies that have helped support the market and economy. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 39 Car

1 Urban sticker
pollution

5 Running 41 Turner
pros and

9 Like lions Danson

11 Singer

Mc-
Lachlan

12 Cousin's
dad

13 Suspect's
story

14 Narrow
inlet

15 Diminish

17 Undesir-
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consequences

19 Rented out

20 Tramps
bill

21 Garden
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22 Texas
player

24 Sandy
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26 Used oars

29 "Exodus"
hero

30 Get taken
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32 Come
down with
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34 Opponent

35 Blockhead

36 Steer
clear of

38 Tears
apart

DOWN

1 Blue

2 Crazes

3 Available

4 Hair goo

5 Become

6 Maryland

7 Item on a

hospital

8 Computer

key

10 Clears,

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11 Sea

dog

16 Of the

southern

28 Gizmo

29 Burning

30 Belongs

31 Staggers

33 Ore

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37 Old

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23 Wheeled

24 Bartered

25 Under

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weather

27 Wipe

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32 Come

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something

34 Opponent

35 Blockhead

36 Steer

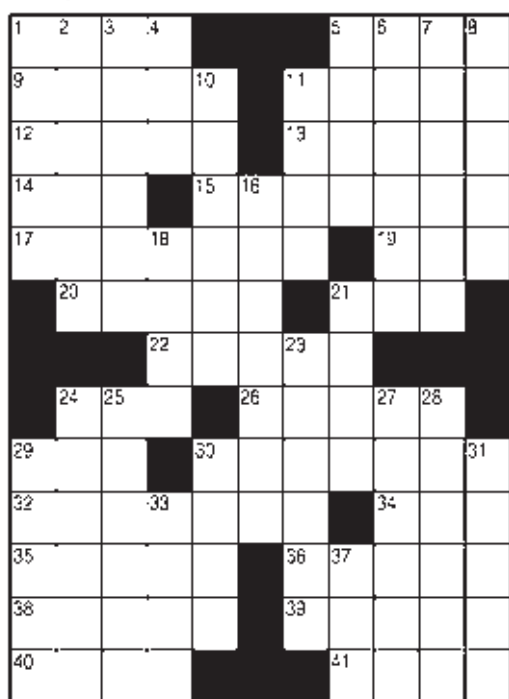
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38 Tears

apart

POSSUM CAST
EL PASO ALOE
PEACE OF MIND
RUN UP
STEP RUMS
ROAD JOSEPH
ELM PAR TEA
DIPPER HALT
DARN DOLL
INLET
PIECE OF CAKE
URGE READING
BAGS ERRAND

Yesterday's answer



9-22

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-22

CRYPTOQUOTE

ZEOD IEZZ QEND WMV ITUA

WMV UBR MO TDF EO MXZW

WMV UBR ZMXQ DXMVQT

UXY KZUEXZW DXMVQT

— D. XDBLEA

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: PITHY SENTENCES ARE LIKE SHARP NAILS WHICH FORCE TRUTH UPON OUR MEMORY. — DIDEROT



FILE - In this March 26, 2021, file photo a member of the Philadelphia Fire Department prepares a dose of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine at a vaccination site setup in Philadelphia. Religious objections, once used only sparingly around the country to get exempted from various required vaccines, are becoming a much more widely used loophole against the COVID-19 shot. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke, File)

J&J: Booster dose of its COVID shot prompts strong response

LONDON (AP) — Johnson & Johnson said Tuesday that a booster of its one-shot coronavirus vaccine provides a stronger immune response months after people receive a first dose.

J&J said in statement that an extra dose given either two months or six months after the initial shot revved up protection. The results haven't yet been published or vetted by other scientists.

The J&J vaccine was considered an important tool in fighting the pandemic because it requires only one shot. But even as rollout began in the U.S. and elsewhere, the company already was running a global test of whether a two-dose course might be more effective — the second dose given 56 days after the first. That two-dose approach was 75% effective globally at preventing moderate to severe COVID-19, and 95% effective in the U.S. alone, the company reported a difference likely due to which variants were circulating in different countries during the monthslong study.

Examined a different way, the company said when people got a second J&J

shot two months after the first, levels of virus-fighting antibodies rose four to six times higher. But giving a booster dose six months after the first J&J shot yielded a 12-fold increase.

While the single-dose vaccine remains strongly effective, "a booster shot further increases protection against COVID-19 and is expected to extend the duration of protection significantly," Dr. Paul Stoffels, J&J's chief scientific officer, said in a statement.

The company previously published data showing its one-shot dose provided protection for up to eight months after immunization. It also pointed to recent real-world data showing 79% protection against coronavirus infection and 81% protection against COVID-19 hospitalization in the U.S. even as the extra-conta-

gious delta variant began spreading.

J&J said it has provided the data to regulators including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the European Medicines Agency and others to inform decisions about boosters. J&J's one-dose vaccine is approved for use in the U.S. and across Europe, and there are plans for at least 200 million doses to be shared with the U.N.-backed COVAX effort aimed at distributing vaccines to poor countries. But the company has been plagued by production problems and millions of doses made at a troubled factory in Baltimore had to be thrown out. As the delta variant spread worldwide, numerous governments have considered the use of booster shots for many of the COVID-19 vaccine options. □

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Artificial intelligence can help highway departments find bats roosting under bridges

Tianshu Li University of Virginia
The big idea

Photographs and computer vision techniques using artificial intelligence are able to detect the presence of bats on bridges automatically with over 90% accuracy, according to our new study. More than 40 species of bats are found in the U.S., and many of them are endangered or threatened. Bats often nest by the hundreds or thousands underneath bridges, so transportation departments are required to survey for them before conducting repair or replacement projects. I conducted the recently published study with colleagues at the University of Virginia's MOB Lab in collaboration with the Virginia Transportation Research Council.

Bridge surveys are important for protecting threatened and endangered bat species. Guano, or excrement, droppings and stains are common signs that bats are present. But it can be hard to verify whether some stains were produced by bats or other sources, such as water seeps, rust staining, asphalt leaching or other types of structural deterioration. However, computers can be trained to detect the difference.

To construct our AI model, my colleagues and I collected a pool of digital photographs of bridges with and without signs that bats may be present. Using these images, we let the model learn the features and traits that identified the presence of bats. □



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As Merkel bids farewell, German women wish for more equality

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Angela Merkel, Germany's first female chancellor, has been praised by many for her pragmatic leadership in a turbulent world and celebrated by some as a feminist icon. But a look at her track record over her 16 years at Germany's helm reveals missed opportunities for fighting gender inequality at home.

Named "The World's Most Powerful Woman" by Forbes magazine for the last 10 years in a row, Merkel has been cast as a powerful defender of liberal values in the West. She has easily stood her ground at male-dominated summits with leaders such as former U.S. President Donald Trump or Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Millions of women admire the 67-year-old for breaking through the glass ceiling of male dominance in politics, and she's been lauded as an impressive role model for girls.

On trips to Africa, the Middle East and Asia, Merkel has often made a point of visiting women's rights projects. She has always stressed that giving women in poor countries better access to education and work is key to those nations' development.

But when it comes to the situation of women in Germany, Merkel who said in 2018 that she wouldn't seek reelection in this Sunday's general election has been criticized for not using her position enough to push for more gender equality.

"One thing is clear: a woman has demonstrated that women can do it," said Alice Schwarzer, Germany's most famous feminist. "However, one female chancellor alone doesn't make for emancipation."

Schwarzer, the 78-year-old women's rights activist, is the most prominent founding member of the German women's liberation movement, both loved and loathed in the country.

"She's the first one who made it all the way to the top," added Schwarzer,



FILE - In this combo from file photos taken between 2009 and 2016 German Chancellor Angela Merkel is shown wearing her iconic blazers in different colors, as she leads the weekly cabinet meeting at the chancellery in Berlin. Angela Merkel, Germany's first female chancellor, has been praised by many for her pragmatic leadership in a turbulent world and celebrated by some as a feminist icon. But a look at her track record in fighting gender inequality in 16 years running Germany reveals missed opportunities in promoting women's issues.

(AP Photos/Markus Schreiber, file)

who has met Merkel for several one-on-one dinners over the years. "But has she done anything for women's policy aside from her sheer presence? Honestly, not a lot." German women have even seen some setbacks during Merkel's reign. Before Merkel took office in 2005, 23% of federal lawmakers for her center-right Union bloc were women. Today, the figure is 19.9%. Only the far-right Alternative for Germany party, with 10.9%, has fewer female lawmakers.

Germany also lags behind other European countries when it comes to equal political representation.

In 2020, the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and governments was 31.4% in Germany, well below Sweden's 49.6%, Belgium's 43.3% or Spain's 42.2%, according to the European Union statistics agency Eurostat.

Women also remain second-class citizens in Germany's working world. Last year, only 14.6% of top-level managers in big listed German companies were women. Germany also has one of the biggest gender pay gaps in the EU, with women earning 18% less than men in 2020, accord-

ing to the Federal Statistical Office. Some experts say Merkel has pressed for more power for women in indirect ways.

"Angela Merkel did not take up her job with the claim to use her role as chancellor for the support of women or making gender equality her vested interest," said Julia Reuschenbach, a political analyst at the University of Bonn.

"However, she did very much engage in promoting other women in politics." Ursula von der Leyen, a Merkel Cabinet stalwart, became the European Commission's first female president in 2019. Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer succeeded Merkel as leader of her CDU in 2018, though she failed to impose her authority on the party and stepped down earlier this year. In 2007, von der Leyen, who was then family minister in Merkel's Cabinet, pushed through a progressive reform of the country's child-raising allowance which encouraged fathers to take some parental leave after the birth of a child. However, it was one of few legal changes during the chancellor's tenure that actively sought to improve the situation of wom-

en.

One reason for Merkel's reluctance to fight more openly for feminist issues in Germany may be her own struggle to get to the top of German politics, Schwarzer said. "Merkel got a lot of pushback as a woman," especially early in her political career, she said.

"She didn't expect that, so that may be a reason she didn't pick out the fact that she is a woman as her central topic."

Influential men in her conservative, traditionally West German and Catholic-dominated party didn't exactly welcome the Protestant former East German physicist with open arms, and male politicians from other parties initially did not treat her respectfully, Schwarzer said.

German journalists' comments on Merkel's appearance were often openly sexist, particularly in the beginning. German media first dubbed her "Kohl's girl," because Merkel was initially promoted by then-Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and later called her "Mutti," or "mommy," even though Merkel has no children.

Leonie Pouw, a 24-year-old election campaign manager in Berlin, was eight

years old when Merkel came to power, so she says it was the most normal thing for her to have a female chancellor.

"It was only in school, when I started to have political awareness, that I realized how much it meant, especially for the older generation, that a woman is leading Germany," said Pouw, who grew up in southwestern Germany. "When I understood that, it made me proud, too."

Nonetheless, Pouw thinks that Merkel could have done more for women's rights and noted that none of Merkel's Cabinets throughout her four terms achieved gender parity.

"I wish that in the future there will be as many women as men representing us," Pouw said.

When Merkel herself was asked in 2017 whether she was a feminist, she answered evasively, saying: "I don't want to embellish myself with a title I don't have." Only in the last few years did Merkel take up the topic proactively and speak out for more gender equality in Germany. In 2018, as Germany marked the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, she said in a speech in Berlin to the loud applause of mostly female listeners that there was a lot still to do to achieve gender equality.

"The goal needs to be equality, equality everywhere," she said.

"I hope it becomes natural for women and men to split up work, raising the children and doing the household equally ... and I hope it's not going to take another 100 years to get there." Merkel has talked little about her experiences of discrimination or her personal life and her husband, quantum chemist Joachim Sauer, has kept a low public profile.

In the last few weeks, Merkel took a noteworthy step in further embracing women's rights, declaring at a discussion with women in Duesseldorf: "I'm a feminist."

"Yes, we should all be feminists," she added. □

Koeman under direct attack for no 'tiki taka' at Barcelona

By **TALES AZZONI** AP Sports Writer

MADRID (AP) — Desperately trying to break through the Granada defense, Barcelona sent more than 50 crosses into the area in its search for a goal.

There was none of Barcelona's famous "tiki taka" passing the ball around patiently until finding the right space near the opponents' goal against Granada in the Spanish league on Monday.

Central defenders Gerard Piqué and Ronald Araújo even played the final minutes as strikers, with little tactical organization on display as the team pressed forward to try to avoid defeat. Barcelona salvaged a point thanks to a 90th-minute equalizer by Araújo.

The team was jeered by many of the 27,000 fans at Camp Nou Stadium after the final whistle, and it didn't take long before critics started to attack coach Ronald Koeman for relinquishing the club's traditional passing game. "What kind of Barcelona is this?" read the front-page headline of the sports daily Marca.

The 54 crosses made on



Barcelona's head coach Ronald Koeman looks down during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Barcelona and Granada, at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain, Monday, Sept. 20, 2021.

Monday were the second highest for Barcelona in a league game since at least 2005-06, according to stats by OptaJose. That was the first full season with the main team for Lionel Messi, the commander of the tiki-taka style for nearly two decades.

"Barcelona is not what it used to be eight years ago," said Koeman, who has become increasingly

under pressure at the helm of the Catalan club.

Monday's draw came less than a week after Barcelona endured a demoralizing 3-0 loss to Bayern Munich at Camp Nou to begin its campaign in the Champions League.

Koeman said "tiki taki," as he called it in the news conference after the game against Granada, was not done yet. But he argued

he can't get his team to play that way when several players are injured and out of action.

"It depends on the players we have available. Look at the squad list we had. We did what we could do. There were no players for the tiki taki," he said. "We want to play our style, but if a match requires a change, we have to make that change. If we have to

make crosses, so be it."

Koeman said he has to improvise because he is missing some key players who could be helping with their individual talent, including Ansu Fati and Ousmane Dembélé.

"With Ansu and Dembélé in the team, things are different," he said. "But they are not available and we have to find alternatives."

Among the other players currently nursing injuries are Jordi Alba another veteran used to the tiki-taka and youngster Pedri González.

Koeman said after the loss to Bayern that Barcelona is facing a new reality following Messi's departure to Paris Saint-Germain. The coach has been using several youngsters in the squad, with 17-year-old Gavi again making an appearance on Monday and setting up Araújo's last-minute equalizer. Yusuf Demir, 18, was a starter at Camp Nou.

The draw against winless Granada left Barcelona in seventh place, five points behind leader Real Madrid with a game in hand. Barcelona's next league match is on Thursday at Cádiz. □

Roethlisberger, Watt among growing list of Steelers injuries

By **WILL GRAVES** AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — So much for the Pittsburgh Steelers' very brief run with good health.

Quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, outside linebackers T.J. Watt and Alex Highsmith, wide receiver Diontae Johnson and cornerback Joe Haden and inside linebacker Devin Bush are among a growing list of players dealing with issues as the Steelers (1-1) prepare to host Cincinnati (1-1) on Sunday. Defensive lineman Tyson Alualu is now on injured reserve after undergoing surgery Monday on his fractured right ankle. Coach Mike Tomlin said Tuesday that Roethlisberger is dealing with an injury to his left pectoral, leaving his participation in practice this week in question. Tomlin

wasn't sure when Roethlisberger got hurt, though he did not miss a snap during a 26-17 loss to Las Vegas last week.

Watt, Highsmith, Bush and Haden are all dealing with groin injuries. Haden and Bush were both inactive on Sunday after testing the injuries during pregame. Watt sustained his injury in the second quarter and watched from the sideline in sweatpants as Las Vegas quarterback Derek Carr lit the Steelers up for 263 yards and two touchdowns after halftime. Highsmith was on the field during the Raiders' final drive.

Tomlin did not rule any of them out for Cincinnati's visit to Heinz Field. He sounded less optimistic about Johnson, who injured his knee at the end of a short gain on the game's final snap.

"He's looking better, but that's not to be confused with great," Tomlin said of Johnson, who leads the team with 14 receptions through two weeks.

Tomlin stressed all of the answers to his team's injury problems are "in house," indicating he doesn't expect them to be long term while expressing confidence in his reserves and practice squad players.

"I'm not necessarily worried about the injury in terms of our expectations or in terms of our performance," Tomlin said.

"We have a week to prepare with known issues. In-game injuries caused more problems than known issues like you're faced with here at the top of the week."

Veteran linebacker Melvin Ingram played well in the second half with Watt on



Pittsburgh Steelers outside linebacker T.J. Watt (90) pressures Las Vegas Raiders quarterback Derek Carr (4) during the first half of an NFL football game in Pittsburgh, Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021.

(AP Photo/Keith Srakocic)

the sideline, racking up his first sack in two years. Jamir Jones could be thrown more heavily into the rotation if Watt and/or Highsmith are unavailable.

"(Jones) is doing the things that young guys do, which is part of the natural matu-

ration process," Tomlin said. The Steelers do have depth at wide receiver if Johnson can't go in fourth-year man James Washington, who has seen limited playing time behind Johnson, JuJu Smith-Schuster and Chase Claypool. □

MATCHDAY: Man United, West Ham meet again; no Messi for PSG

A look at what's happening in European soccer on Wednesday:
ENGLAND

Manchester United plays West Ham for the second time in the space of four days when they meet in the third round of the League Cup. Man United won their Premier League match 2-1 on Sunday but only after David de Gea saved a stoppage-time penalty from Mark Noble, who had moments earlier entered as a substitute. In two other matches between teams who have already played each other in the Premier League this season, Chelsea hosts Aston Villa and Wolverhampton is at home to Tottenham. Arsenal hosts third-tier AFC Wimbledon while Leicester and Brighton meet second-tier opposition in Millwall and Swansea, respectively.

FRANCE

PSG can maintain its perfect start to the French league season with a win at last-placed Metz. Although its attacking trio of Kylian Mbappé, Neymar and Lionel Messi has yet to



Manchester United's Jesse Lindgard, second left, reacts with teammates after scoring his side's second goal during the English Premier League soccer match between West Ham United and Manchester United at the London Stadium in London, England, Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021.

(AP Photo/Ian Walton)

jell, PSG has been clinical so far, winning its opening six matches. Messi won't play at Metz after a knock on his left knee over the weekend. PSG's southern rival Marseille which is also unbeaten travels to Angers. Jorge Sampaoli's Marseille is in second place, five points behind PSG with

a game in hand.

Following the fan violence that marred the northern derby between Lens and Lille, third-placed Lens hosts Strasbourg in an empty stadium.

ITALY

Massimiliano Allegri is being criticized for relying on the old guard of players

from his first stint as Juventus coach, when he led the Bianconeri to five of their nine consecutive Serie A titles. Juventus hasn't won any of its four opening matches and has just two points ahead of a visit to Spezia. Sporadic use of Federico Chiesa, who was one of the top performers

in Italy's run to the European Championship trophy, Matthijs de Ligt and Dejan Kulusevski all of whom arrived during the two years when Allegri was away has been glaring. Allegri has also been slow to adapt to the new rule permitting up to five substitutions, blaming himself for poor choices in a 1-1 draw with AC Milan on Sunday. Milan, which remains unbeaten, hosts promoted Venezia. Also, it's: Salernitana vs. Hellas Verona and Cagliari vs. Empoli.

SPAIN

Real Madrid hosts promoted Mallorca looking for its fourth straight league win, and fifth overall. Carlo Ancelotti's squad has been relying on the attacking duo of Karim Benzema and Vinícius Júnior, who have combined to score 11 of Madrid's 15 goals in five league matches.

Valencia had its unbeaten streak ended by Madrid in the previous round and will try to rebound when it visits Sevilla. Winless Villarreal hosts Elche, while last-placed Alavés visits Espanyol. □

Browns put Landry on IR, receiver will miss at least 3 games

By TOM WITHERS AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Browns wide receiver Jarvis Landry will miss at least Cleveland's next three games after being placed on injured reserve Tuesday with a sprained knee ligament.

A model of consistency

and durability in his NFL career, Landry got hurt after catching a short pass and picking up 9 yards on the second play from scrimmage in Sunday's 31-21 win over the Houston Texans. On Monday, coach Kevin Stefanski said Landry was "week to week" and that it

was still not clear whether Landry would go on IR.

The 28-year-old Landry must sit out the next three games, and it's possible he could be out longer depending on the severity of his sprained medial collateral ligament.

Landry has never missed a game in his career because of injury. He was forced to sit out once last year because of COVID-19 contact tracing protocols. Because of his injury, the five-time Pro Bowler's streak of catching at least two passes ended at 111 straight games the fourth-longest streak in history. Landry has six receptions for 80 yards and two rushes for 13 yards and a touchdown in 2021.

Landry is one of Cleveland's team leaders, and his absence will be felt on and off the field. □



Cleveland Browns wide receiver Jarvis Landry, right, runs with the ball as Kansas City Chiefs defensive tackle Derrick Nnadi defends during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021, in Kansas City, Mo.

(AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)

Hungary gets 1-match fan ban, \$217,000 FIFA fine for racism

By ROB HARRIS
AP Global Soccer Writer

LONDON (AP) — Hungary was ordered by FIFA on Tuesday to play its next World Cup qualifier without spectators as punishment for the latest racial abuse by its supporters when England played in Budapest.

Monkey chants were aimed at England forward Raheem Sterling and unused substitute Jude Bellingham, who are Black, at Puskas Arena on Sept. 2. The Hungarian federation was also fined 200,000 Swiss francs (\$217,000), one of the largest financial penalties handed out to a country by the world governing body.

In a sign of a systemic problem with racism from Hungarian fans, the punishment extends the country's run of games in empty stadiums because of racism in qualifiers for the 2014 and 2022 World Cups and Euro 2016. The team will have to play another FIFA match without a crowd if there are future incidents of abuse, with the second match of the punishment being suspended for a probationary period of two years.

"The FIFA ban on Hungary for racism and the huge fine is welcome and a signal from FIFA of a renewed determination to punish racism," Piara Powar, executive director of the anti-racism FARE network, told The Associated Press. □